

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention.

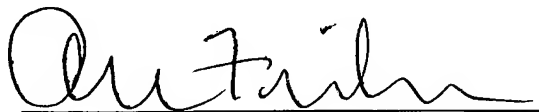
Claims 2, 5-7 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,434,718 to Kawahara et al. (hereinafter "Kawahara"). Claims 2, 5-7 and 12-13 have been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

New claims 14-16 have been added by amendment.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 35848.

Respectfully submitted,
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